

Merry Christmas!

# The Middle School Good Times



Vol. 9 #3

Paw Paw Middle School, Paw Paw, MI

December 1982

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Shown here are the boys on the intramural basketball teams. The games began Wednesday, December 1.

## BOYS Begin B.Ball

Coaching boys' basketball after school Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays are Mr. Erickson and Mr. Crook. The season continues through January.

Team captains are Kevin Staniszewski, the Lakers, Pete Rozenbergs, the 76'ers; Jon Imus, the Celtics, Mike Larson, the Pistons, Todd Hess, the Cougars, and Bill Iula, the Tar Heels.

The season's end may include a tournament with other schools.

## cheers part 2

Cheerleading is underway with the second session. Not as many girls can sign up this time around because classes meet only on Monday and Wednesdays. The girls may be cheering for intramural basketball.

ds & no

## Girls Basketball

Girls' basketball finished with a final game November 11. The Lakers beat the Nikes 15-5.

The Lakers consist of Nancy Goble, Kathy Teske, Michelle Bilger, Michèle Thomas,

Tammy Ruthruff, Kathy Hoover and Tisha Mitchell.

For the season the leading scorers totaled the following points: Nancy Goble, 65, Holly Fisk, 60, Wendy Hoger, 58, Meredith Terry, 41, Rachel Short, 41, Kathy Teske, 40, Jane Rice, 38, Sharyn Dillon, 38 and Kim Kolosar, 30.

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## CHESS CLUB

Chess Club meets every Thursday at 2:130. Everyone plays at his/her ability level. Anyone can play. There will be a tournament with trophies.

## St. Nick's Day

December 6th was St. Nicholas Day. Much of Europe still celebrates the date of St. Nicholas' death. In Germany, Switzerland and the Netherlands men in bishops' robes pose as St. Nicholas. They visit children, urge them to be good and to say their prayers, and they give them gifts.

The Dutch brought the visiting of St. Nicholas with them when they came to the U.S. The visit of Santa Claus came from this custom. The name Santa Claus comes from Sinterklaas, the Dutch for St. Nicholas.

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## Christmas tree

Oh Christmas tree,  
Oh Christmas tree,  
You're so pretty with your lights.  
Oh Christmas tree,  
Oh Christmas tree,  
You're so pretty at night.  
Oh Christmas tree  
Oh Christmas tree,  
You thrill me with all your might.  
Oh Christmas tree  
Oh Christmas tree,  
Tomorrow you will be so bright.

l.r.



## REALLY CHRISTMAS

Sometimes the real meaning of Christmas gets lost beneath the presents, Santa and parades. The real meaning of Christmas is that it is the day Jesus Christ was born. This is why we celebrate this day. Remember the real meaning of Christmas and enjoy Christ's birthday.

jc

## Hanukkah

December 11-18 are the eight days of Hanukkah, a Jewish festival that celebrates the victory of the Jews over King Antiochus and his Syrian armies as well as the rededication in 165 B.C. of the Temple in Jerusalem.

The menorah, or eight branched candlestick, recalls the rededication of the sacred temple. The festival has also been called the festival of lights. Each night another candle is lit until the whole menorah is lighted. The symbolize the oil lamp that should have run out in one night but kept burning for eight days, a miracle, as was the victory over the Syrians.

During the holiday parties are held and children receive presents.

ce

## Meet Melodie

The new president of student council is Melodie Perry. The Good Times interviewed her recently. She said that she ran because she felt she could handle the job and that she wanted to make school a little more fun so it wouldn't seem so much like a prison.

Melodie would like to see quite a few dances, maybe one every other Friday.

ds

## DANCE

- Last Friday's dance was the second one since the student council formed.

Held in the gym at seven o'clock it was another success.

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Only one week to go... Better finish shopping soon... Oh excitement.

## NOEL NIGHT

Hi. My name is Lisa. I'm five years old. It is three o'clock. I just know I can do it this year. I am gonna stay up and see Santa. Last year, when I tried to stay up, I fell asleep about this time. Not this year. I will stay up.

Oh there's a noise. Maybe that's him. Nope. It's just the cat. Even if I miss him, though how that could happen I don't know, at least I'll be the first one up in the morning.

It's not too comfortable here on the stairs. Maybe I'll curl up behind the couch. I sure hope he comes this year. I guess I was mean to my sister but... I've been nice to her most of today. That may help.

I feel sleepy. I will just close my eyes for a minute...

Merry Christmas. ce, tr, and others

## Whatever

Just when you thought it was safe to go back into the water... at least... if you're a neon fish avoid Mr. Hawley's fish tank. A big white fish devoured one the other day. What'll he go for next?

The masked tape strikes again.. in Mr. Erickson's room. Just ask Chris Lossie.

Gordon and Matt seem to have been all tied up lately. Really engrossed in their reading, we guess!

She opened the door and took the knob with her... Alas - Mrs. McBride was subbing in room 214 when the door knob came off in her hand!

Later the next week, the door, still knobless, was accidentally shut. It took pliers and Mr. Drury to open the door... by removing the door.

Our reporters can't be everywhere. If you see anything funny, write it down and pass it on to us. Give us your name so we may check with you for details.



## FACULTY FOCUS

Mrs. Matson teaches art. She is married, doesn't have kids, is between twenty and forty years old and majored in art at college.

She told the Times reporter that "basically kids are extremely creative and I wanted to share some of my creativity so we can learn something from each other." She said that was why she became a teacher.

She is involved in golf, shopping, going to the beach, being with friends, and total relaxation. When asked how long she wants to stay here she replied "Who knows?" s.l.

Mrs. Firestone works with the supplies for the school. She orders supplies and disperses them throughout the school. Part time she is an aid in the lunch room. She says the thing she likes best about her job is getting to know the kids, and she said she would never change jobs unless she wanted more money.

In her spare time she likes to shop, bowl, and watch sports on tv. She prefers track and basketball. She has been married for twentyseven years and her anniversary is July 23. Her birthday was September 25. She never went to college because she got married and now has three children.

m.t.

Mr. Stenner has taught 6th grade math and English, 7th grade English and reading and 8th grade English and reading. He has been teaching for four years. His favorite subject is English.

Over the summer Mr. Stenner went to graduate school. Most of the time he studied and relaxed when he could. His hobbies are bowling, softball, baseball and lounging on his boat.

Mr. Stenner has a twin brother Mike and they were both born in Illinois on October 1, 1954.

n.o.

## Lost in Space

I'm ready for takeoff. 10-9-8-8-6-5-4-3-2-1. I'm up in space. 2000feet, 3000 feet, 4000 feet. Successful lift off. Now out of the Earth's gravitational pull. The space scenery is beautiful.

What's this? I'm getting pulled by some magnetic force. The instruments are going wild. I have no control of the ship. The communication system is getting staticky. I now have no more communication. Everything has gone dead.

All is quiet now. No engines roaring, though I am gaining speed. I see ahead of me a spaceship at least four times the size of mine. I'm getting closer and closer to it.

I am in the mysterious craft. I hear ticking. The craft is a time bomb. I take out a bottle and put a letter in it hoping someday someone will find it.

I shoot it into space. Just in time. Whoosh! I'm gone but the bottle remains.

kk

## For Christmas We Want\_\_\_\_\_

A line in a song goes "All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth." The Food Timers were out asking middle school students what they wanted for Christmas. The replies didn't include any teeth.

Lance Bredikis wants "a snowmobile."

Steve Ericson wants, "well, things you... won't print." Scott Bredikis wants

"Atari E.T. cartridge." Carrie Kay wants "a trampoline."

Jennifer Hanley has her heart set on "a horse." Jennifer Iozen wants a "waterbed and \$100." Michelle McKenny doesn't care what she gets.

Bus driver Laurel Sherburn wants "a job for her husband and a money tree."

Santa Claus wants "a Christmas off." But seriously....

Suzy Triquet wants "money." She says she doesn't have any. Pete Rozenbergs said he "wants whatever he get." Todd Hess also "wants money because he really needs it." (Is there some one who does not?) Connie Kirshenbauer put in a request for "two thousand dollars." Matt Hollewa would like "Sheri Kent" (She knows now, Matt.)

See page four for more.



**Wants****Continued**

Shannon Waldo would like "a cute baby bunny." Susan Ambs wants "suede pants." Bob Yack says "I'll tell you later. I'm not sure yet." (Hope he figures out soon) Lisa Burns doesn't think "you'd print it."

Denise Schlueter doesn't "want much." Mike McCarthy, however, would like "all the Dungeons and Dragons stuff money can buy."

Rob Laverack would like "donkey Kong." J.J. Langone also wanted "all the Dungeon and Dragons things I can get." Darci Curtis would like "a stereo so I can jam." Anna Knipfel would like "a color tv. so she can stay up at night and watch i.t."

Melissa Heighton would like "an Atari system." Marie Hoover would like "a bike... just because." Tracy Maki wants "AM/FM cassette player." Steve Brucher wants "cassette tapes..His are getting boring."

Doug Craddock wants "electric typewriter because he likes to type." Patty Wiley wants "a water bed" for what else? "To sleep on." Lora Redmond wants "a bird because mine died." Jill Gregory would like "designer jeans because I don't have any."

Travis Hall would like "clothes." Mrs. Smith would like "N.D. to have a better football team because she'd like them to win." Biz (?) would like a "Bike." Rinda Teske wants "clothes." Eric Greene doesn't want "much." Joe Jones wants "a radio."

Kerrin Hindenach would like "Atari to play Frogger." Kara Ampey would like "a stereo." Maryann Barich wants "an Atari." Michelle Engel would like "Atari cartridges Frogger and Donkey Kong."

Carolyn Sarola wants "skis." Joyce Camburn would like a new "shirt." Greta Ogden would like "a skirt and a monogram sweater." Chad Worden wants "a stereo and an Olympus camera with a speed winder and a new weight bench."

Lori Humphrey wants "a telephone and a stereo because I love to talk on the phone and I like to listen to the radio." Pam Koppers wants "a monogram sweater. I like them." Norma Cusley sums up the opinions by saying, "Enough!! (Believe me)!"

**STYLES**

Fashion in our school has pretty much remained the same. The most fashionable pants are blue jeans, whether faded or new, they're the oldest and most reliable. Then there is the t-shirt one of the most comfortable articles of clothing you can own.

The newest crazes are things such as miniskirts, leg warmers, ruffled blouses, low heeled or cowboy boots and khaki colored clothing.

In shoes we have one outstanding brand and everyone knows that Nike heads the tennis shoe fashion scene.

Hair styles have changed from long and same length to short and feathered.

So although the world changes constantly Paw Paw Middle School relies mostly on the same old friends to set the fashion trend.

lora

**Awards,****Awards**

At the sixth grade assembly held November 19, awards were given for honor roll, perfect attendance, outstanding achievement in gym, art, reading, spelling, English, math, science, and social studies. Other awards were given for outstanding effort in these classes.

In English, Mr. Hawley's class had the highest overall point average, in math, Mr. Lutz' class had the top honors, in science, Mr. Lutz' class also took the top place, and in social studies, Mrs. Kovach's class placed the highest.

Two people got special recognition by five teachers. They were Micah Billings and Beth de Baptiste.

One person had all A's, Micah Billings, and only one person in the school with all 1's in citizenship and that was Kathy Triquet.

In attendance, Mr. Hawley's class was first, Mr. Lutz's class was second, Mrs. Kovach's was third, and Mrs. Smith's fourth, and Mr. Ruesink's was fifth.

m.t.

**and Awards**

The 7th grade seemed to really enjoy the assembly they had November 18. They had several awards including a new one for individual citizenship. The rest of the awards were for attendance, phys. ed, science, math,

(see page 5)



**BUTLER WINS P'BALL SEASON**

Paddleball season began with Tom Wright playing Steve Houghton. Houghton won. Andy Butler played Marc Nelson and Andy dropped Nelson into the losers bracket. Nelson played Houghton and lost so Friday night, Nov.30, Butler played Houghton for the championship game and won.

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**BASKETBALL BEGINS FOR BOYS**

The boys'intramural basketball season is underway. The teams include the Bruins manned by Eric Greene, Chuck McCoy, Trevor Smith, Jason Coffman, Jeff Dragon, Nathan Labadie, Gary Imus and Brian Loomas.

The Gators are Scott Flick, Marc Galbraith, John Herbert, Dan Kolosar, John Tapper, Scott Browne, David Quick, Chris Stratton, Brett Baney and Rob Foster.

The 76ers are Travis Hall, Micah Billings, Tim Combs, Thomas Drake, Tom Wright, Billy Carter, Jonathan Njus, Jason Pritts, and Mitchell Shelton.

Making up the Celtics are Matt Hess, Steve Houghton, Doug Powless, Jeff Crouse, Mike Makowski, Sean McKenny, Brett Herwick, and Tyler Silber.

On the Pistons team are Troy Hendrickson, Eric Brown, Eric Lean, Chad Payne, Tim Bannister, Lon Boley, Rob Williams, Chris Nelson and Rick Yarbrough.

Finally, the Tarheels are made up of Mark Kruizenga, Sean Donovan, Bob Roy, Mike Shinaberry, Heath Beckstrom, Andy Lumm, Greg Woodhams, Brian Carter, Alex Stevens, and Hutson Tapp.

mg

**SKI THIS WINTER**

Join the Ski Club. The membership fee is \$4.00 which includes two free lessons. Every time you go it costs \$5.00 for a lift ticket and \$5.00 for equipment rental if you don't have your own.

You can ski anytime Mon.-Fri. The club will go about four times as a group. We will be going to Bittersweet. Sign-up sheets are in Mrs. Smith's room, 103.

yk

**RUDOLPH GRANTS INTERVIEW**

An unusual interview took place between two sixth grade staff reporters and Rudolph the well known reindeer.

Reporters asked how Rudy got his nose and were told, "I was born with it."

Rudolph admitted to being unusual, noting that no other reindeer have his nose.

When our reporters suggested plastic surgery, Rudy replied, "No I want to keep my nose."

Rudolph told reporters he is fed all year around on candy canes, but on Christmas eve he eats cookies.

He complained that Santa sleeps most of the year but added that one of the best things about working for Santa is the 11 month vacation.

When asked what makes him fly, he replied, "magic dust that Santa sprinkles over us." He added, "He keeps it under his pillow."

Rudolph explained that he had a perfect flight record but could recall a near miss one foggy night when he almost ran into a tree.

**REPLACE RUDOLPH? <sup>cjc & tr</sup> Ridiculous!**

When asked what they would replace reindeer with were it possible to replace them, middle school 7th and 8th graders gave the following replies.

Amy Moore suggested using "oxen because they are great!" Julisa Garcia and Shelly Bergeson felt "elephants" were the best choice. "They match Santa and he wouldn't need as many of them."

Tara Twardowski favors "sea cows" while Susan Nelson echoed the choice of many-"geese" or other birds since they already fly. Jennifer Starbuck suggested using Huskies "because they are strong."

Ingrid Lacy would suggest using the "boys' basketball team" because "they'd be cute." Andrea Pluta likes "green and red snakes because those are Christmas colors!" Brett Lehton thought "alligators" were more practical. "When they die, they'd make a set of luggage for Santa."

Mark Wickett suggested "flying piranhas," saying "Why not?" Jon Stoner suggested "baboons-they're plentiful" and Steve Houghton said, "camels' who could carry their own lunch."







The 8th grade newspaper staffers wish you a Merry Christmas- from front row, Jacquie Carleen, Nicole Campbell, Kim Shears, Susan Elmore, Chris Eye, Tammy Ruthruff and Scott Lindenbach. Back row, Pat Killarney, Norma Ousley, Kathy Höövr; Denise Schlueter, Lora Wilson, and Meredith Terry.

Other staff members include Lora Redmond, Trevor Smith, Chris Lee, Kathy Triquet, Cliff Overacker, Brett Lehto and P.J. Moore.

## POET'S NOOK

### A rainbow

A rainbow is a box of crayons.  
Green, blue, yellow and red.  
A rainbow is like a half moon.  
Its shape is round like a ball.  
The animals say it's like a new morning dawn.  
A rainbow in the sky is like a freshly baked pie.

R. Teske

### Pillows

Light as a feather  
Soft as cottonballs  
Warm when there's bad weather  
Carry it with you  
When you walk through the halls.

Rest my dreary head on it  
Fall fast to sleep  
But first you take another one  
And put it under your feet.

(col. 2 continues)

Reminds me of a BIG piece of fluff  
Laying on the bed so neat  
Then watch it glide across the sky  
On a satin sheet.

M. Warren

### Bubble Gum

Bubble Gum is like a hot air balloon.  
Bubble gum is as enjoyable as a hot summer day in the middle of May.

I. Cally

### Teapot

The burner is sun down orange  
If you touch it with your finger  
it would scorge.  
The teapot is fire red.  
And steam comes from its head.  
It's not blue or like dew  
It whistles like a song.  
Something like Foo Chun Yong.  
And now that you can see,  
I made a cup of cinnamon tea.

J. Faluch

### A Volcano

A smoldering volcano is like a sleeping giant  
All crackling with fire.  
Sometimes it's silent  
Sometimes it roars like a ferocious lion  
Other times it sounds very very quiet.  
A volcano is like a cut on a finger  
Because of the lava running down with a linger.  
The lava running down all bright  
bright red  
Has been worshipped as a god  
It has been said.

S. Hall

The poems printed here came from Mrs. Kovach's English classes.



ALL I  
WANT FOR  
CHRISTMAS IS  
A NEW LEGG



Assembly continued...

English, social studies, reading and health.

For class attendance, the top home room was Mr. Stenners', followed by Mr. Watterworth's, Mr. Martin's, Mr. Snyder, Mrs. Sang, and Mr. Zolp.

For Class citizenship, the winner was Mr. Watterworth's homeroom, followed by Mr. Zolp's, Mrs. Sang's and Mr. Martin's.

Mr. Drury feels that attendance is the best and most important award because you have to be here to get these awards! k.h.

8th grade awards assembly will be held after the 1st semester.

## DEAR SAM

Dear Sam:

My mother and I have been having fights this week. She wants me to get my hair cut but I won't let her. She hits me about it every morning. What should I do?

Worried

Worried:

Explain to her why you don't want your hair cut. Figure out some way to talk to her without arguing and fighting. If this doesn't work, maybe you could get your hair trimmed just a little and hopefully she will be satisfied.

Dear Sam:

I have two boys who want to go with me but I don't like one of them. I don't know how to tell him without hurting his feelings. What do I say?

Confused

Dear Confused:

I know how you feel and I think you should just tell him you don't want to go with him but maybe you could still be friends. If that doesn't work, then that's that. Some times people do get hurt and there may be no way to avoid it.

Dear Sam:

Whenever I get home I have to study for one hour. My younger sister doesn't have to; she just does her work and goes outside. I have to do all the chores and I always get blamed for everything. My mother won't talk to me about it. She feels I'm jealous. Plus my mom and first dad are divorced and my step-dad hates me to say my first dad. Since I have an extra grandma I'm spoiled. (I'm also the oldest grandchild.) What should I do?

Desperate

Dear Desperate:

I think what you should do is talk to your grandma about your little sister and about your step-father. Maybe you can figure out some sort of schedule for the chores. Also maybe you can approach your step father and talk to him about your feelings. He may not realize just how desperate you feel the situation is. Talk to him and your mom. Do it as calmly as possible. Don't do it when you are angry; wait and do it later.

Also be glad you do have your extra grandma and that she must care a lot or you wouldn't say you were spoiled.

## Visit with Santa?

Kathy Hoover and Denise Schlueter visited and interviewed Santa Claus Friday December 3 at Maple Hill Mall.

They asked him if he'd rather be doing something else. He said he enjoys what he's doing. He likes kids.

When they asked him how he gets into houses without chimneys he replied, "Magically. Can't give away secrets."

Santa said he's been in the business thirty nine years. One of his qualifications is that there are no promises made.

Santa did tell Kathy and Denise "I'd be happy to see you here."

ds & kh